

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/660,580

Examiner

Khai M. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

ONO, JUNICHI

Art Unit

2819

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/12/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-36.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/02/2003
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.



Khai M. Nguyen - April 12, 2007
Art Unit: 2819
571-272-1809

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. An initiated copy of the information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 10/02/2003 is attached herewith.

Drawings

3. Formal drawings (14 sheets) filed on 10/08/2003 are accepted.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 2, "second resister" has been changed to --second resistor--.

Claim 12, line 2, "second resister" has been changed to --second resistor--.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-36 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claims 1-11, and 23-29, the references of record neither disclose nor render obvious the recited combination including: the first and second parallel resistors, wherein one end of the first resistor is configured to be applied with a first constant voltage and the other end of the first resistor is configured as a first voltage detecting position, and one end of the second resistor is configured as a second voltage detecting position and the other end of the second resistor is configured to be either connected to a ground or applied with a second constant voltage that is lower than the first constant voltage; and the processing unit that detects a conductive condition established between the first and second resistors in accordance with voltage values at the first and second voltage detecting positions.

With respect to claims 12-22, and 30-36, the references of record also fail to teach or fairly suggest a method of operating an input device, which is similarly cited as in claim 1, including the steps of: applying a first constant voltage to one end of the first resistor; either connecting one end of the second resistor to ground or applying a second constant voltage that is lower than the first constant voltage to the one end terminal of the second resistor; and detecting a conductive condition between the first and second resistors in accordance with voltage values at the other end of the first resistor and the other end of the second resistor.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

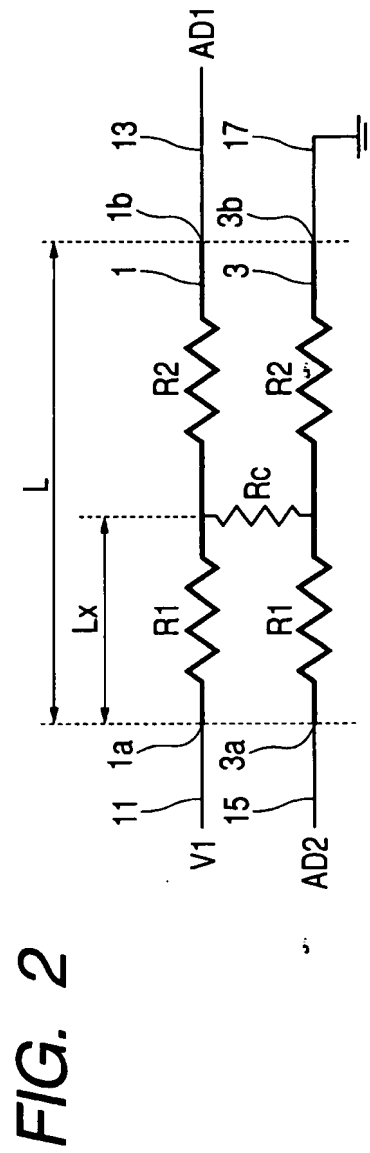
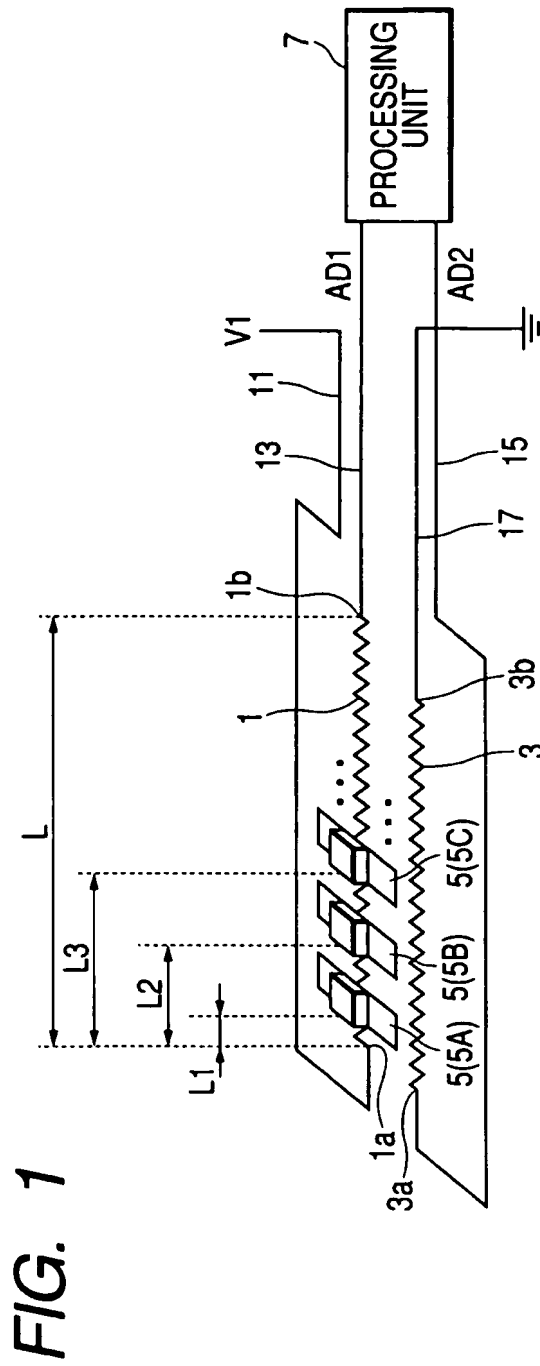
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khai M. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-1809. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 5:30 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rexford (Rex) Barnie can be reached on 571-272-7492. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


April 12, 2007

Khai M. Nguyen
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FIG. 3

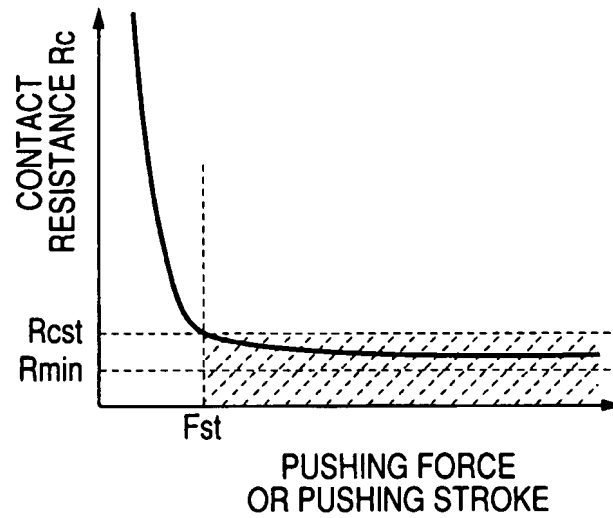
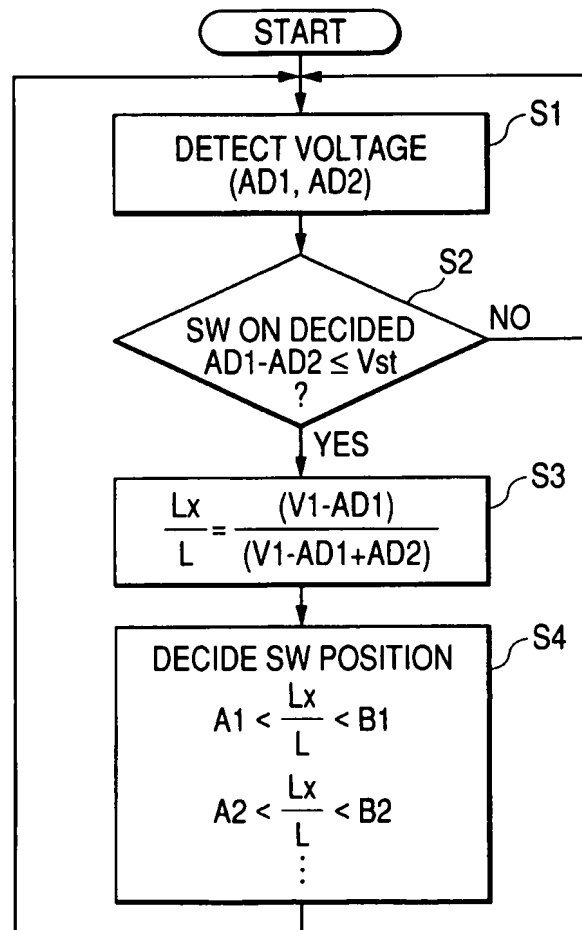


FIG. 4





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FIG. 5 T1

Q1	$A1 < \frac{Lx}{L} < B1$
Q1	$A2 < \frac{Lx}{L} < B2$
Q1	$A3 < \frac{Lx}{L} < B3$
	\vdots

FIG. 6

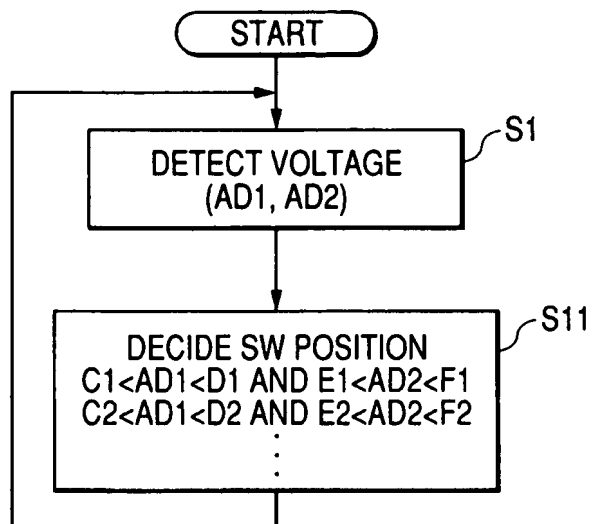


FIG. 7 T2

U1	Q2	$C1 < AD1 < D1$	$E1 < AD2 < F1$	Q3
U1	Q2	$C2 < AD1 < D2$	$E2 < AD2 < F2$	Q3
U1	Q2	$C3 < AD1 < D3$	$E3 < AD2 < F3$	Q3
		\vdots	\vdots	



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Replacement Sheet

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FIG. 8

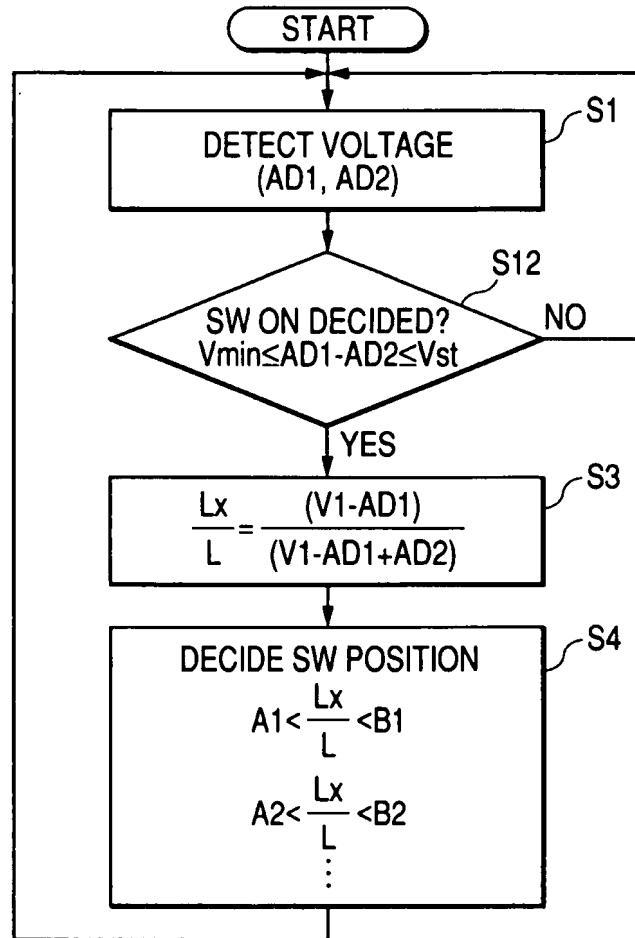
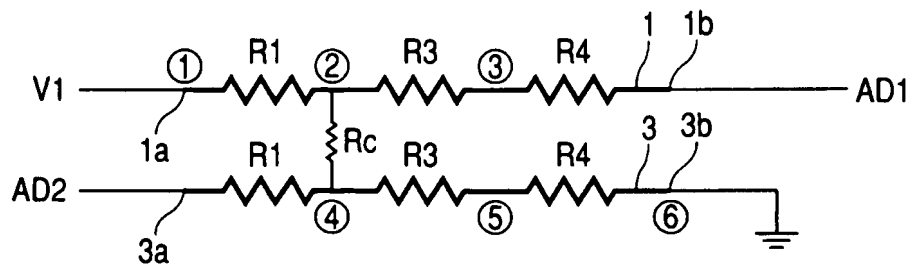


FIG. 9





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FIG. 10

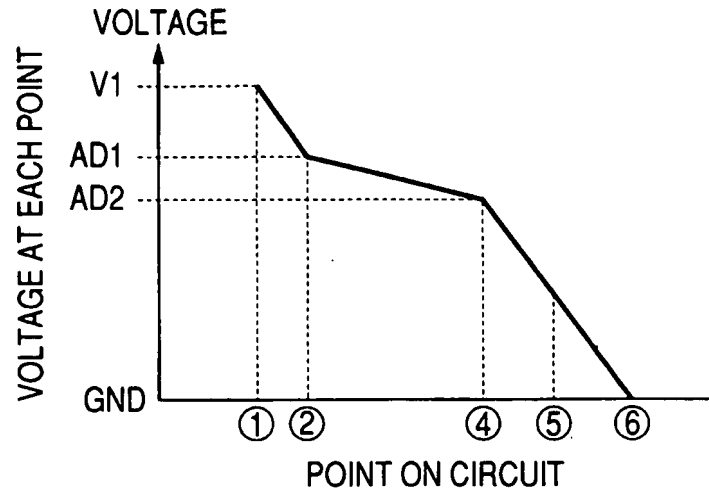


FIG. 11

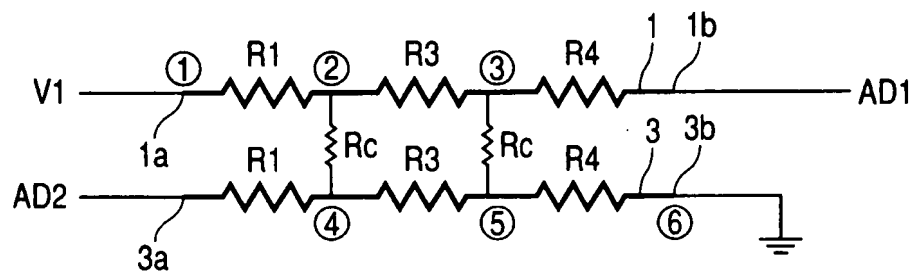
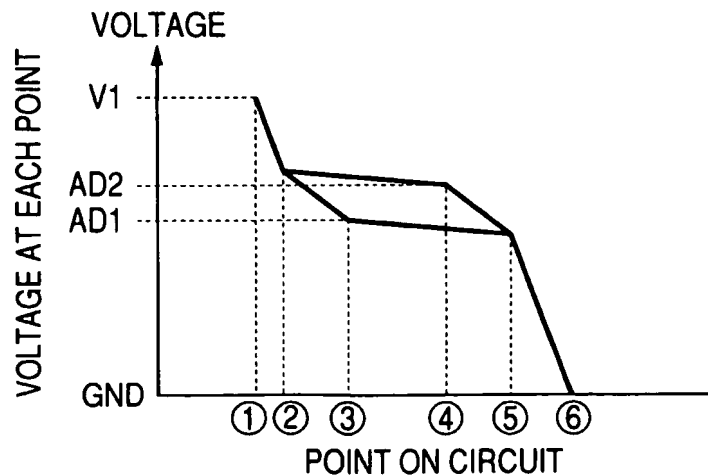


FIG. 12

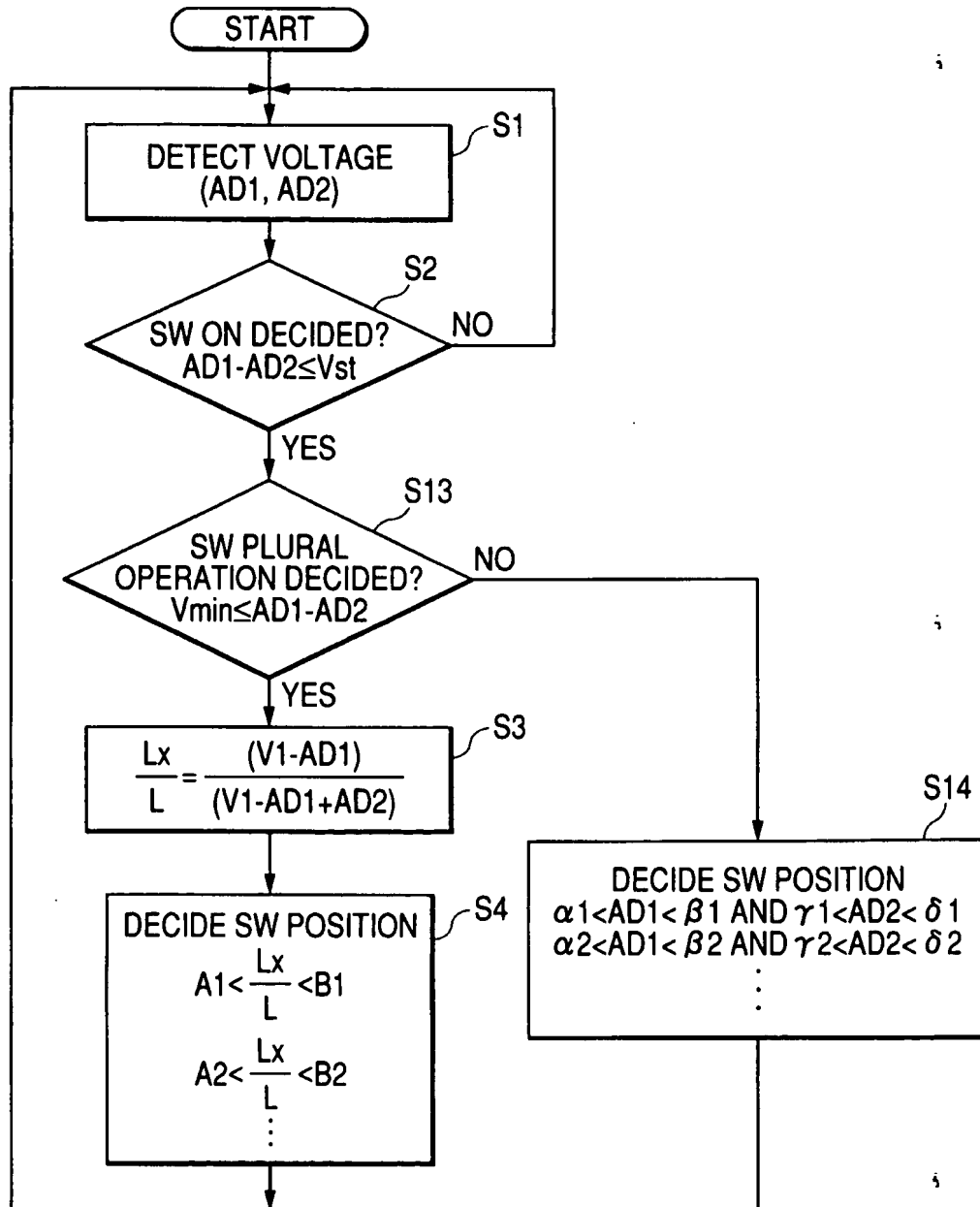




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FIG. 13





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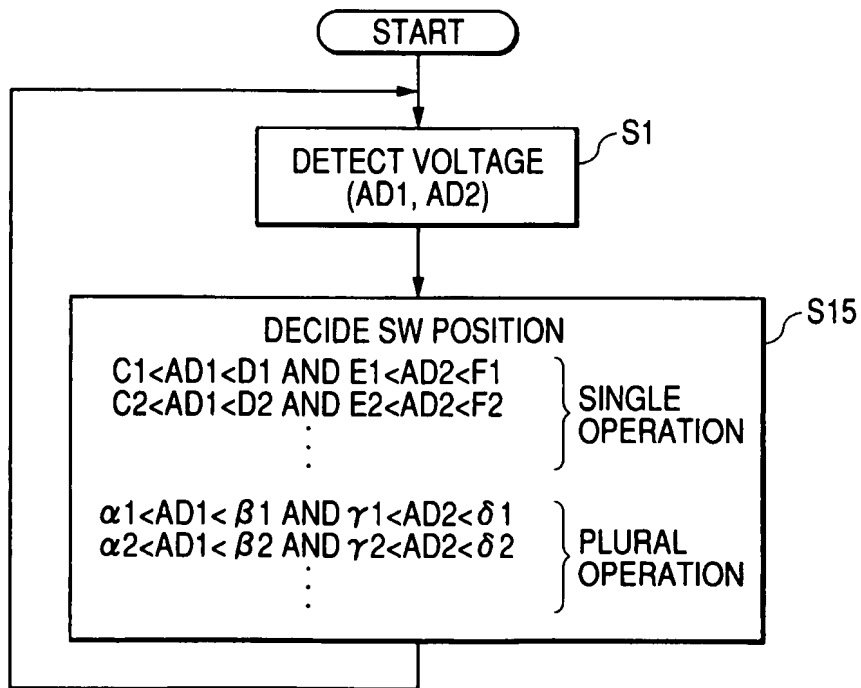
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FIG. 14

T3

U2	Q4	$\alpha 1 < AD1 < \beta 1$	$\gamma 1 < AD2 < \delta 1$	Q5
U2	Q4	$\alpha 2 < AD1 < \beta 2$	$\gamma 2 < AD2 < \delta 2$	Q5
U2	Q4	$\alpha 3 < AD1 < \beta 3$	$\gamma 3 < AD2 < \delta 3$	Q5
		\vdots	\vdots	

FIG. 15



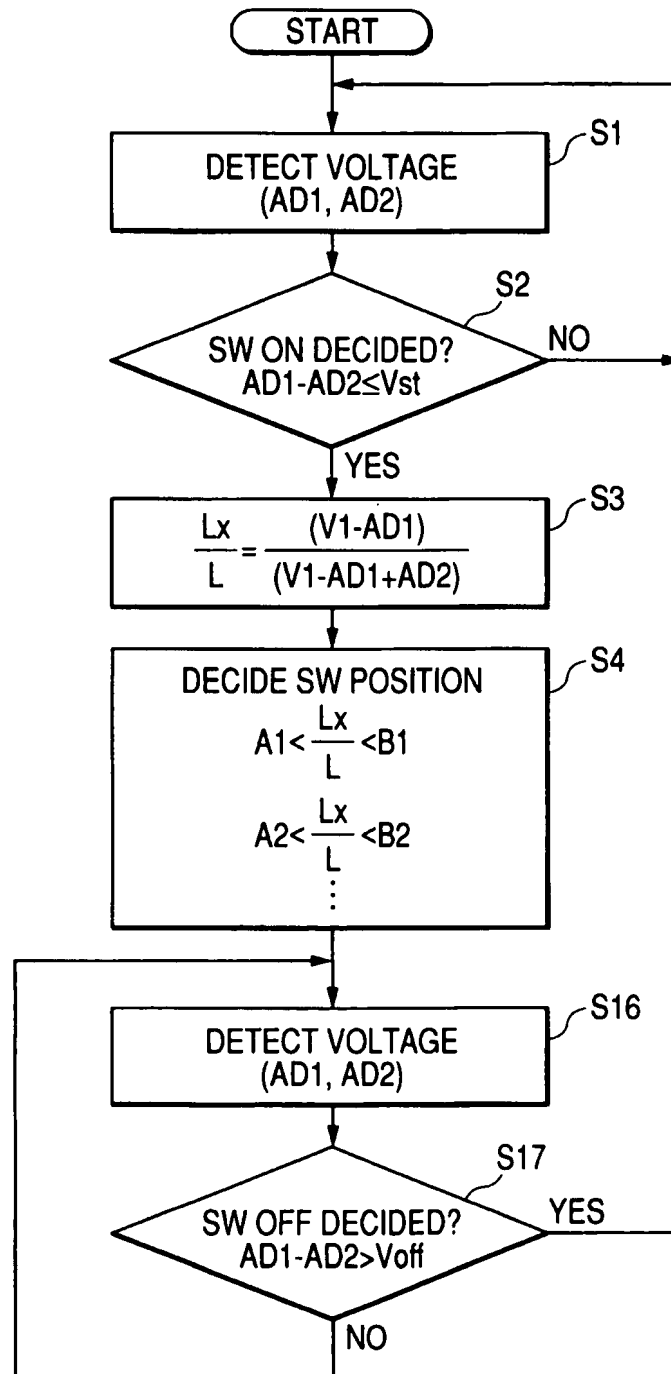


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FIG. 16





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Replacement sheet

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FIG. 17

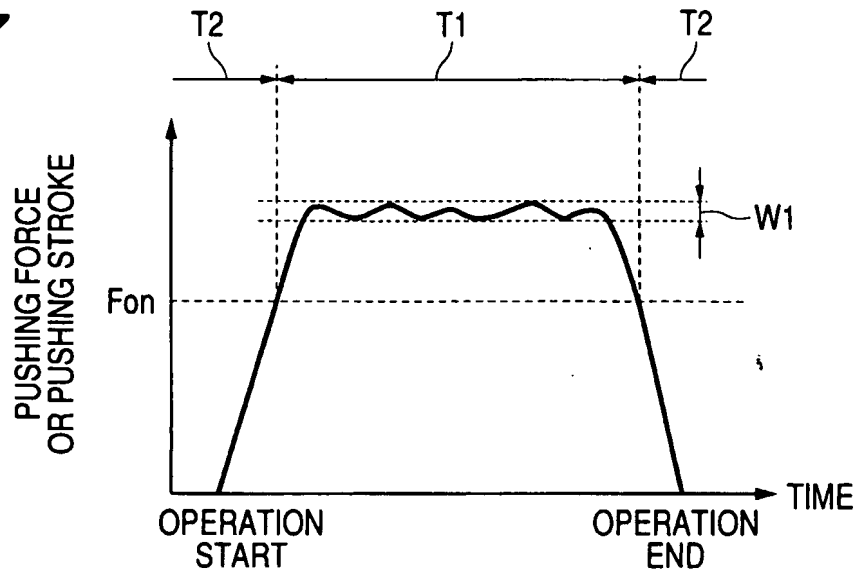


FIG. 18

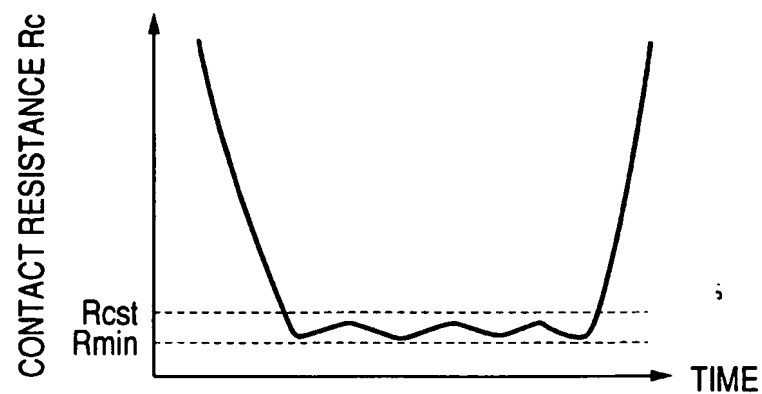
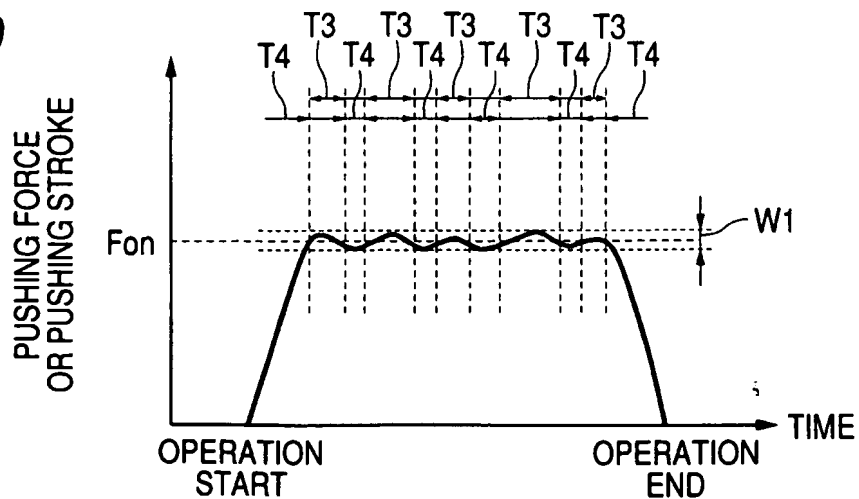


FIG. 19





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FIG. 20

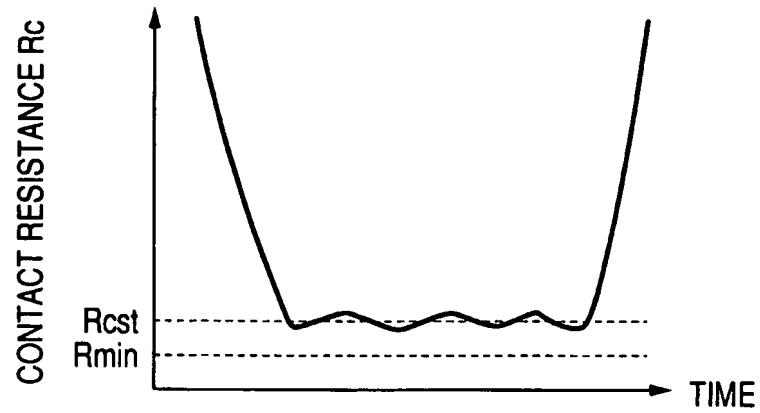


FIG. 21

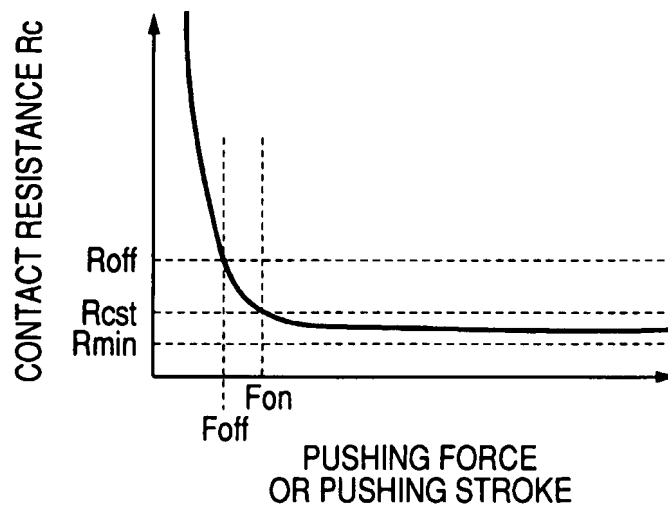
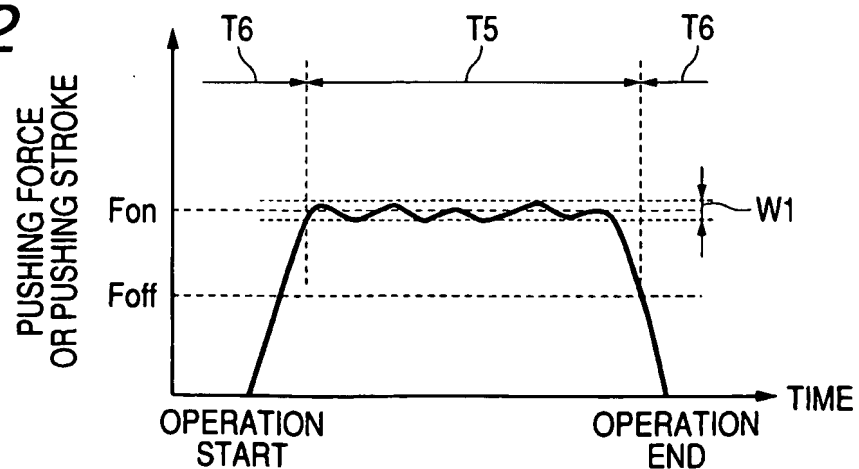


FIG. 22

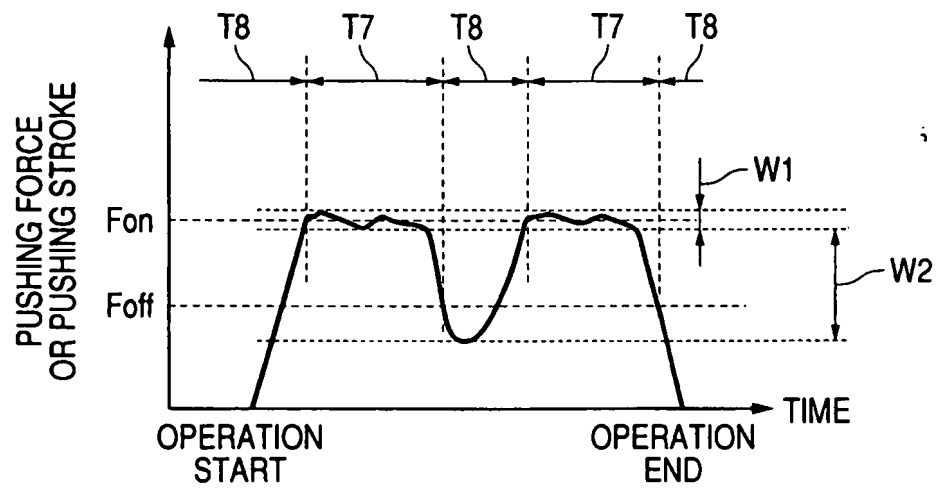




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FIG. 23





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Replacement Sheet

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FIG. 24

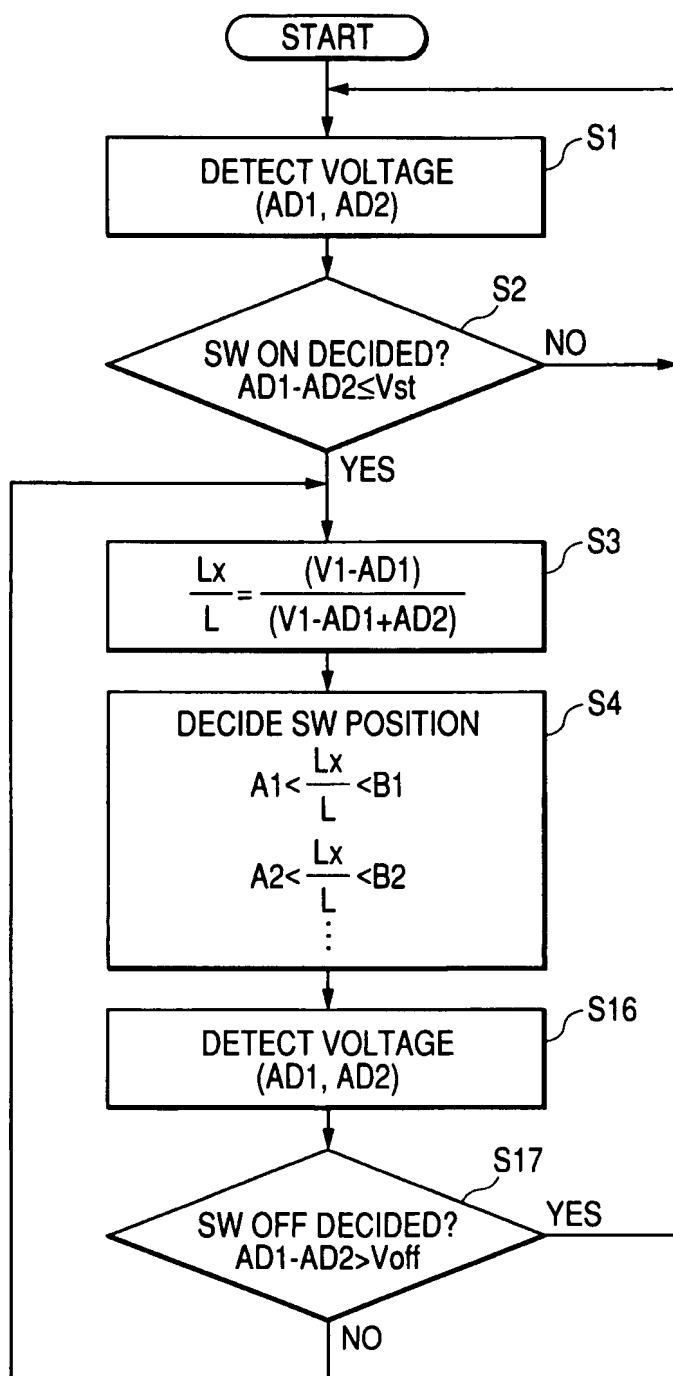
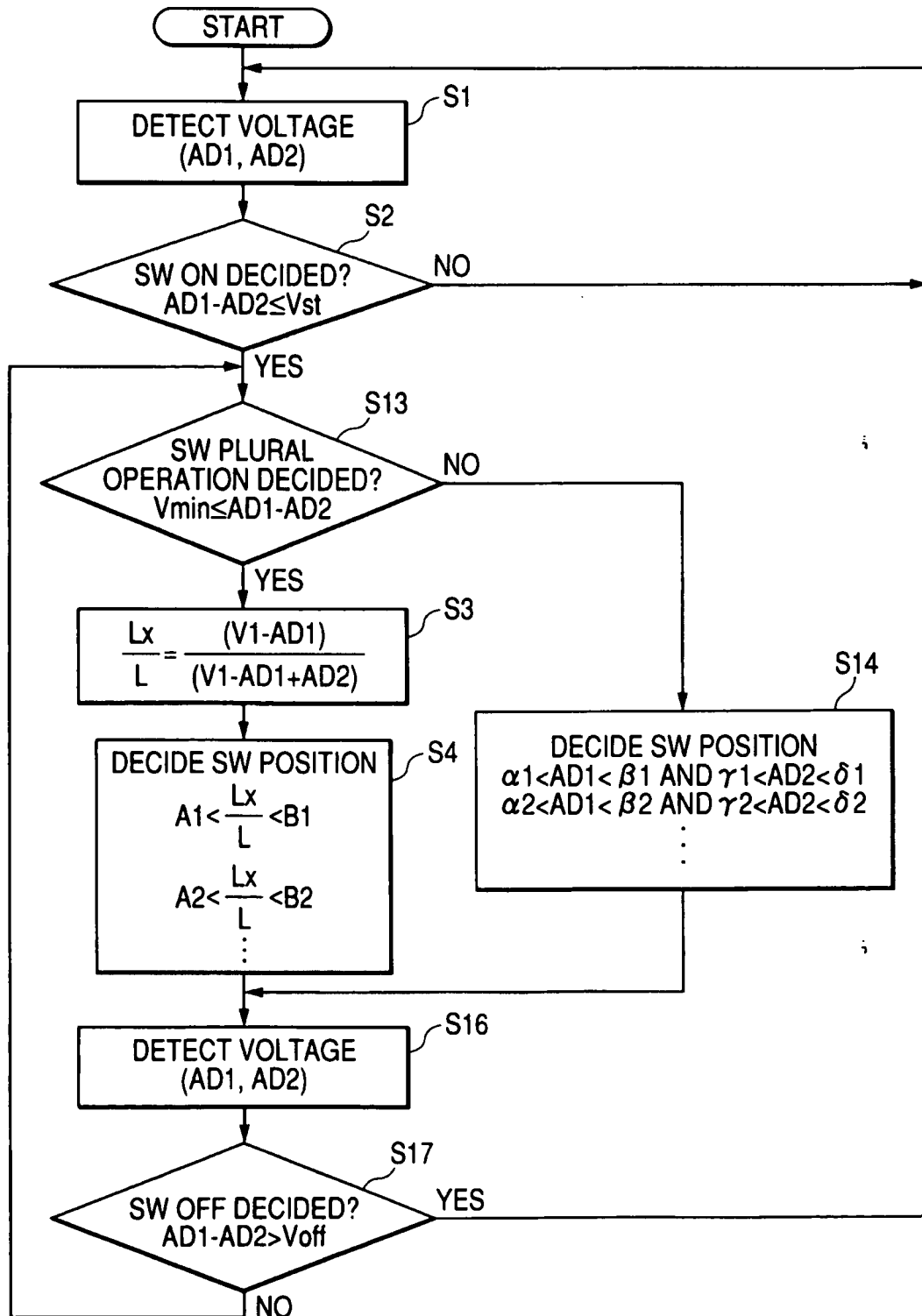


FIG. 25





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FIG. 26

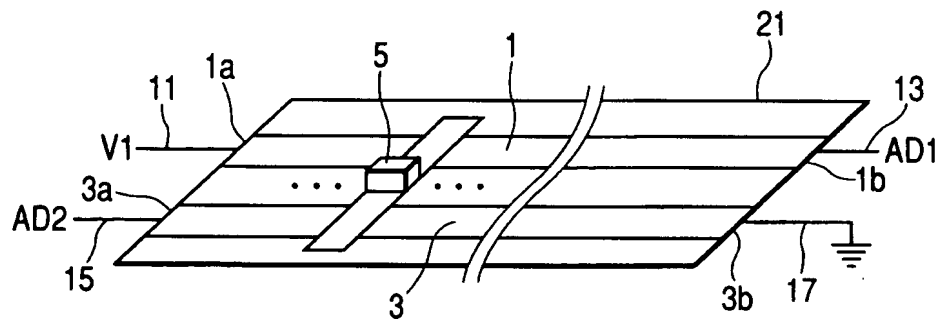


FIG. 27

